

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0519
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01284

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

CAPE TOWN PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORT OF SECRET
AGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTERN FIVE AND SOUTH AFRICA

1. GERMAN MISSION INFORMED CONTACT GROUP APRIL 6 OF
REPORT IN SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS OF APRIL 5 OF SECRET
ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE WESTERN FIVE AND SOUTH AFRICA
CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS
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FROM NAMIBIA AFTER ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO GERMAN
REPORT, THE PAPERS STATE THAT THE WEST HAS
ASSURED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SECRETLY THAT
SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS COULD STAY IF THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY WANTED THEM TO STAY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION
ON THIS MATTER, FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA REPORTEDLY TOLD
AFRIKAANS-LANGUAGE PAPER, "DIE BURGER": "IT IS TRUE

THAT THE FIVE WESTERN AMBASSADORS, WHEN ASKED BY ME, ANSWERED CATEGORICALLY THAT IF A MAJORITY OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WANTS THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS TO STAY, THERE WOULD BE A CHANGED SITUATION. THERE IS NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT THIS CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING: NAMELY THAT SUCH A WISH BY A MAJORITY OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE TO BE RESPECTED. IF THIS WEREN'T SO, THE STATEMENT BY THE FIVE TO ME WOULD BE COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS."

2. ACCORDING TO GERMAN REPORT, SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT WESTERN CIRCLES IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD DECLARED CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SECRET AGREEMENT. THOSE SAME WESTERN SOURCES WERE SAID TO HAVE AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE A COMPLETELY CHANGED SITUATION IF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DID ASK THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS TO STAY AND TO HAVE SAID THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THIS INFORMATION, CONTACT GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMEND FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON CONTINGENCY BASIS ONLY. IF ASKED TO COMMENT ON THESE STORIES, RESPONSE SHOULD BE:
(A) THERE HAS BEEN NO SECRET AGREEMENT;
(B) THE FIVE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE INFORMED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTIES ORALLY THAT "THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MAY EXPRESS THEIR OPINION ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES".

4. FYI. IN ADDITION GROUP BELIEVES THAT SPECULATION ON WHAT THE ATTITUDES OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MIGHT BE OR WHAT ACTION THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT TAKE IS NOT HELPFUL. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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